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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/401,660	09/23/1999	MASAAKI NAKABAYASHI	684.2902	4966

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EXAMINER

CHANG, AUDREY Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/401,660

Applicant(s)

NAKABAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Audrey Y. Chang

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 32-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 32-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 6, 2005 has been entered.
2. This Office Action is also in response to applicant's amendments filed on September 6, 2005 and November 28, 2005.
3. By these amendments, the applicant has amended claims 29, 32-34 and had newly added claims 35-38.
4. Claims 29, and 32-38 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 29 and 32-34 and newly added claims 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent issued to Hosokawa et al (PN.5,359,684) in view of the patents issued to Sarofeen (PN. 3,894,710) and Kosuga et al (PN. 6,156,243).**

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Hosokawa et al teaches a layered Fresnel micro-lens (85, Figure 36c) that is comprised of a *first Fresnel lens* (41) and a *second Fresnel lens* (84) formed on the first Fresnel lens. Fresnel lens is known to be a diffractive optical element. Hosokawa et al teaches that the first Fresnel lens is made by molding process, (please see Figure 36a, 8h and column 10, lines 45-60 and column 17, lines 6-16).

This reference has met all the limitations of the claims with the exception that it does not teach explicitly that the second Fresnel lens or the second diffractive optical element is made by molding process and it also does not teach explicitly to engage an alignment mark provided on the mold used to make the second diffractive optical element with an alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first diffractive optical element is formed. **Sarofeen** teaches explicitly to form *alignment nubs* (3, or protrusions) and *alignment detents* (4 or recess) on the mold (1, Figures 1-3) and the engaging substrate (2), respectively, such that by aligning the nubs with the detents the mold can be aligned with the engaging substrate accurately, (please see Figures 1-3 and column 5, lines 52-69). **Kosuga et al** in the same field of endeavor teaches a mold (45, Figures 7a and 7b) used to form diffractive optical element having grooves, wherein the mold also is provided with alignment marks (42s and 42b) that can be formed on the substrate used to form the diffractive optical element and can be applied to be engaged with fitting alignment marks. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of Sarofeen and Kosuga et al to use molding process to make the second diffractive optical element or Fresnel lens and to provide engaged protrusion and recession alignment marks on the mold and the substrate having the first diffractive optical element formed thereon so that a proper alignment between the mold and the first diffractive optical element can be achieved and the second diffractive optical element can be properly formed on the first diffractive optical element and be properly aligned with the first diffractive optical element. With regard to claims 37 and 38, Kosuga et al teaches that a single mold can be used to make both the diffractive optical element and the alignment marks.

Response to Arguments

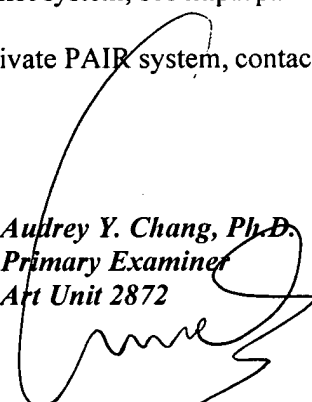
7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 29 and 32-34 and newly added claims 32-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Audrey Y. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-2309. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30), alternative Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

***Audrey Y. Chang, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872***



A. Chang, Ph.D.